Technology for the Production of Azidothymidine

3106. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that technology for the production of Azidothymidine which is required by AIDS patients has been developed by Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, a Government Laboratory;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Technology has been transferred to Indian Drug company for commercialising the drug in India;

(c) if so, the name of the company and by when the drug would be available;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government Laboratory has written to Government for exemption of custom duty on its input Thiomdine;

(e) what is the present custom duty on this and when did Government receive the request;

(f) whether Government have taken any action on this request; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The name of the company is M/s. CIPLA.

(d) to (g) The Indian Institute of Chemical Technology Hyderabad has forwarded a proposal for exemption of custom duty on its input "thiomidine" which has been examined in this Ministry and recommended to Ministry of Finance for their appropriate action.

Revamping of coal based fertilizer plants

3107. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have embarked on an ambitious plan to boost fertilizer production in the country by revamping the existing coal-based fertilizer plants and setting up new gas-based ammonia and urea plants in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what amount would be required for the modernisation and revamping and the results expected to be achieved:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, which is operating a coal based fertilizer plant at Ramagundam (Andhra Pradesh), has submitted a proposal for rehabilitation including a captive power plant of 40 MW for Ramagundam Unit at a cost of Rs. 171.94 crores for achieving 60 percent capacity utilisation.

A plant in the private sector for manufacture of Ammonia/Urea based on natural gas is being set up at Kakinadda with a capacity of 900 tpd Ammonia and 1500 tpd of Urea.

Natural gas has also been committed for setting up a medium sized Ammonia/Urea plant in Krishna Godavari basin, for which a promoter is yet to be identified.

Liberalisation of sale of fertilizers

3108. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from fertilizer industry to liberalise the fertilizer sales by introducing free sale; and

(b) if so, with what effect and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Fertilizer Association of India in a Memorandum dated 29th November, 1991 has stated that the fertilizer industry would rather welcome removal of all price and distribution control on fertilizers to allow for market forces to operate rather than tightening the norms of subsidy payment during the 6th pricing period.

Fertilizer Association of India anticipates that even though the transition will be difficult even as the newly commissioned units or projects under implementation struggle to survive, in the ultimate analysis, the industry will try to adjust to the situation of complete de-control. They have further added—"But, it must be pointed out that attracting future investment will be difficult as the production from new units with high capital costs will be at a much higher cost and consequently unviable in the face of the selling prices at which farmers may be willing to buy. Undoubtedly the choice in favour of de-control will be painful for everyone and there could be serious consequences at least in the short term, such a stagnation or decline in fertiliser consumption with adverse impact on feedgrains production."

Launching prosecution against produces or distributors of drugs

3109. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 686 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th September, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not launched any prosecution against any of the producer or distributor who violated the notified prices of bulk drugs and formulations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) how many cases of such violations are of ten years standing, how many are of five years standing and how many are of less than five years standing: and

(d) what steps Government would take to safeguard the interest of consumer and panalise the violators of provisions of price control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Some Companies are yet to submit complete data to the Government and in other cases the examination and processing is at different stages. The list of cases of overcharging has been given at S. No. (4) to (16) (other items) on page No. 3 of the Annexure to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 650 answered on 5th September, 1991, which are mostly for the period ranging from 1987 to 1991, to the extent information is available.

Information of Imports of Finished Medicines

3110. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1650 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th September, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Form—6 calls for the information of imports of finished medicines;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of finished medicines imported by each multinational drug companies during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what are the names of finished formulations imported by each company and what is the price of each;

(d) whether Government have sanctioned permission for manufacture of these formulations in the country;

(e) if so, names of the products and names of the companies whom permission has been sanctioned;

(f) whether it is a fact that most of the medicines are exempted from custom duty;